

Belmont Heritage Commission

Statement of Purpose:

To promote the proper recognition, use and protection of the unique historic and cultural resources of Belmont, and also integrate preservation planning as a partnership with individuals, businesses, Town boards and other appropriate groups.

As stated in New Hampshire [RSA 674:44*](#) and referencing the [Belmont Master Plan*](#) the Belmont Heritage Commission shall have advisory and review authority.

(Adopted by the Belmont Heritage Commission on January 13, 2005)

[* New Hampshire State Law Reference](#)

TITLE LXIV PLANNING AND ZONING

CHAPTER 674 LOCAL LAND USE PLANNING AND REGULATORY POWERS

Heritage Commission

Section 674:44-b

674:44-b Powers. –

I. GENERALLY. Heritage commissions shall have advisory and review authority, specifically, as follows:

- (a) Survey and inventory all cultural resources.
- (b) Conduct research and publish findings, including reports to establish the legal basis for a district and preparation of historic district ordinances within the municipality prior to its adoption or amendment as provided in RSA 675:6.
- (c) Assist the planning board, as requested, in the development and review of those sections of the master plan which address cultural and historic resources.
- (d) Advise, upon request, local agencies and other local boards in their review of requests on matters affecting or potentially affecting cultural and historic resources.
- (e) Coordinate activities with appropriate service organizations and nonprofit groups.
- (f) Publicize its activities.
- (g) Hire consultants and contractors as needed.
- (h) Receive gifts of money and property, both real and personal, in the name of the city or town, subject to the approval of the city council in a city or the board of selectmen in a town, such gifts to be managed and controlled by the commission for its proper purposes.
- (i) Hold meetings and hearings necessary to carry out its duties.

II. PROPERTY. The commission may acquire, in the name of the town or city, subject

to the approval of the local governing body, by gift, purchase, grant, bequest, devise, lease, or otherwise, a fee or lesser interest, development rights, covenant, or other contractual right, including conveyances with conditions, limitations, or reversions, as may be necessary to acquire, maintain, improve, protect, limit the future use of, or otherwise conserve and properly use the cultural resources of the city or town, and shall manage and control the same; provided, however, that the city, town, or commission shall not have the right to condemn property for these purposes.

III. HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION. Heritage commissions also may assume, if authorized by the local legislative body, the composition and duties of historic district commissions.

Source. 1992, 64:2. 1993, 32:1. 1995, 138:5, eff. July 23, 1995.

[*Town of Belmont, New Hampshire 2002 Master Plan Reference\(s\)](#)

Page 4.1 Vision

“The Town of Belmont brought together citizens from all walks of life with a common goal to develop a guiding document to plan for its future while *protecting its past*. The Town recognizes its potential for growth and is committed to the protection of its unique natural resources, *history* and recreational opportunities...”

. *Preserve and protect* the rural quality of life including natural, agricultural and *historic features*

. Develop the Village Area into a unique and attractive combination of residential, commercial, *historical* and recreational uses to serve as a focal point for the Town

Page 7.1 Conservation & Preservation

“Mission Statement

To protect through conservation and preservation, the natural, man made, and *historical resources* throughout Belmont by educating the citizens as to their existence, importance and fragile nature.

All of these resources are significantly affected by other Master Plan topics...”

Historical resources include:

Archaeological and areas of special importance

Historical buildings and sites

Pages 7.6 through 7.8

...Establish design review definitions and standards compatible with rural neighborhoods and centers *using 1996 Plan NH design charrette held for the Belmont Mill renovation* as a starting point...

...Identify Community Development Finance Authority, Downtown Initiative projects and others offering *preservation*/community facility support/housing opportunities while simultaneously benefiting business through state tax investment credits ...

...GOAL 9”*Identify historic buildings, natural and cultural resources, and sites and areas of special importance in Belmont.*

- A. A. *Determine eligibility for appropriate state and federal registers and/or programs as key community landmarks of special significance, with the Belmont Historical Society and other interested citizens.*
- B. B. *Provide resources for Historic Register review and applications.*
- C. C. *Evaluate and rank all municipally owned historic or landmark buildings and sites for conservation, preservation and/or multiple reuse as Community facilities.*
- D. D. *Discuss defining the Village District specifically as an historic district or similarly preserved area. Complemented with village green space and other aesthetic considerations.*
- E. E. *Develop partnership opportunities and awareness of Lochmere site.*
- F. F. *Establish Local Heritage Commission.*

-GOAL 10 *Protect farmland resources and heritage as an integral part of Town rural character.*

E. Market County Fairgrounds as a prime agricultural *heritage site*.

Pages 12.6 – 12.7 Transportation

-GOAL 7 *Coordinate transportation planning with conservation and preservation goals.*

A.To promote transportation planning that *protects our* natural resources, *historical resources*, and man-made resources.

1.Conserve and enhance open space,*historic places, including cemeteries*, and scenic views and vistas.

8.Identify and locate historic and natural *resources along the state highways in Belmont*

(Principal historic, heritage references only – full document available at Town Offices, Land Use and Belmont Library and www.belmontnh.org - Complete New Hampshire laws available at www.nh.gov)